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The Christmas Chain

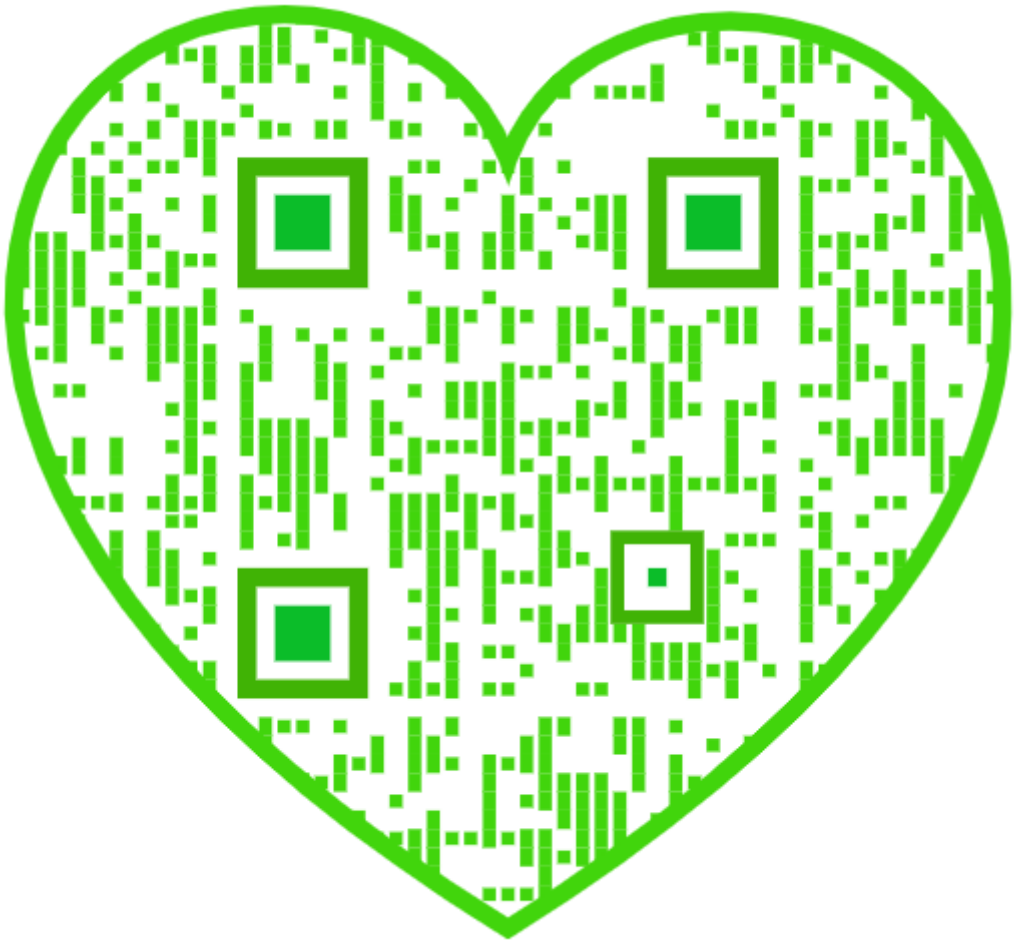
—BY—

LILIAN PEARSON

PRICE 25 CENTS

Eldridge Entertainment House

Franklin, Ohio and Denver, Colo.
944 So. Logan Street



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Eldridge Entertainment House
Franklin, Ohio, also 944 S. Logan, Denver, Colo.

The Christmas Chain

By LILIAN PEARSON

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A Christmas sketch for children. There are fourteen speaking parts, but many more children could be used by having choruses instead of single characters.

A Lonely Someone.
Christmas Angel
Chrismas Star
Christmas Bells (two or more)
Christmas Pudding
Holly Wreath (or any number)
Mistletoe Bough (or any number)
Miss Snow (or any number)
Yule Log (or any number)
Christmas Tree (To represent this a boy could carry a small tree decorated and with packages)
Sad Sisters (two)
Santa Claus

The Christmas Chain should be made of crepe paper with alternating links of red and green. The costumes should all be simple, but suggestive of the characters they represent. From each child's wrist will hang a few links of the Christmas Chain of red and green.

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The Christmas Chain

Scene 1—A bare looking room with one small window at the back. A small cot should be at the right hand side of the window, and a chair and table at the other side.

(Enter Someone)

Alone in my bare little cottage I live,
With no one to love and nothing to give;
But, stay! I *have* friends whom I mustn"t forget;
And a gift I can give—I was foolish to fret.

(She opens paper bag and takes out two buns and a small bottle of milk, and places them on the table.)

My supper I'll share with the birdies, so they
Will have a grand feast for their own, Christmas Day.

(She takes one of the buns and goes to the window to scatter crumbs for the birds.)

How happy I am that I've something to share;
And now my wee room isn't lonesome or bare.
The bells will be ringing their clear, happy song
And soon little children will pass in a throng;
They'll sing the sweet story of Christ and His birth,
And tell of the joy that He brought to the earth.
The merry lights twinkle and gleam through the town,
But there *(she points through window)* is a house that is dark as a frown.
No happiness seems to have crept thruogh that door
For Christmas; it's every bit dark as before.
I wish the poor sisters could join the good cheer

Of others, and smile at this time of the year.
But now, when my prayer of thanksgiving I've said,
I'll wait for the bells, while I'm snuggled in bed.

Someone's Prayer—

For the birds and the flowers,
For the sunshine and showers,
I thank Thee, dear Father, I thank Thee.
For this food I can share,
And Thy fond, loving care,
I thank Thee, dear Father, I thank Thee.

(Someone removes only her shoes and then snuggles under the one shabby quilt on the bed. Bells are heard, softly chiming in the distance. Someone sleeps. The room grows brighter and the Christmas Angel softly enters, while children voices are heard from without, singing Christmas carols. In her sleep Someone lifts her arms as if in plea, and then lets them rest outside the coverlet. The Angel crosses the room as far as the window and stands a minute looking down at the little sleeper. Two ends of the Christmas Chain are passed in through the window. The Angel takes the Chains, and advancing to the bed, fastens the Chains to Someone's arms.)

Angel—

Sleep, little maid—when you wake, what a treat
For you, and for others! My Chain is complete!

CURTAIN

Scene 2—Living room of the Sad Sisters' home, large but cheerless. The two Sisters, each wearing a large pair of spectacles, are sitting opposite each other in rocking chairs. Bells are heard ringing.)

First Sister—

Hark! the Christmas bells are ringing,
And the children, carols singing.
Christmas time again is here,

But it brings to us no cheer.
Why are we so sad and lonely?
All the town seems gay; we only
Cannot smile or happy be.
Christmas time means naught to me!
We have Christmas wreaths of holly,
Yule logs, puddings—all that folly,
But, instead of being glad,
I'm unhappy, lonely, sad!

Second Sister—

So am I. It makes me cross
Just to see the silly fuss
People go to, just to say
What they had for Christmas Day.
Yes, I know that Christ was born
Years ago upon that morn,
But I really cannot see
Why the day should gladden me
More than others now, you know,
Since that happened years ago.

First Sister—(taking off her spectacles to dust them, lets them slip to the floor and exclaims:)

Sister, does the light grow dimmer?
I can scarcely see its glimmer.
Is it that my eyes are failing?
Then, indeed, I shall be wailing.

Second Sister—

Yes, and mine are misting, too,
Till my "specs" I can't see through.
There! I've slipped them from my eyes.

(The room grows much brighter and the Angel enters.)

Sister! What a great surprise!
Strange, indeed! What can it mean?
Such wondrous change I've never seen.

(First Sister, who has been groping on the floor for her spectacles, straightens up.)

First Sister—

Then mine I'll have to banish, too.

(She sees the Angel)

Good gracious me! And who are you?

Angel—

Oh, I'm the Christmas Angel true,
I've come to make you happy, too.
Your Selfishness Spectacles were bad;
'Twas those that made you feel so sad.
But now, I'll show my Chain complete
That binds the world to the Christ Child's feet.
The Chain of Christmas Spirit true
Has never been complete for you;
There's always been a missing link;
Tonight 'twill bind you 'round I think.
And now your vision's clear, so go—
Follow the Star—the way 'twill show.

(The Sisters turn to follow the Star who has entered while the Angel has been speaking.)

Angel—

But stay! First let us summon here
The links you've used each other year.

First Sister—

Why, first, we've had the wreaths of holly,
But never have they made us jolly;
They pricked our hands, and mussed the room,
But banished not our wonted gloom.

Holly—(dancing in)

A merry Christmas, folks, to you;
I hope you're hale and hearty,
For I'm all dressed in Sunday best
And longing for a party.
I'm "stuck" upon myself, you see,
For reasons good and many.
I've berries red, from foot to head,
But didn't cost a penny.

Second Sister—

He really is a cheery youth,
I'm glad he came, and that's the truth.

Mistletoe—(dancing in)

A happy greeting, friends, to you,
Please note my graceful bending;
I'm the Mistletoe bough *(bows low)* and bring you now
Both fun and joy unending.

First Sister—

Oh, good! We'll decorate the room
And drive away all signs of gloom.

(While Sisters are busy hanging wreaths, etc., enter Snow.)

Snow—

Good cheer, and may I help you, too?
I'll make things pretty, really;
I'll dress the world white while it's sleeping tonight,
And scatter my blessings quite freely.

(She shakes snowflakes from her dress and scarf, etc.)

Second Sister—

The little Snow Maiden is perfectly right;
For Christmas the world should be robed in pure white.

Yule Log—(enters snapping his fingers and smiling brightly)

From the depth of the woods, dear friends, to you
I've come, with my warmest greeting;
I'll try to be bright and to bring you tonight,
A sparkle and glow to your meeting.

(Holly, Mistletoe, Snow and Yule Log join hands and sing to the tune "Work for the Night is Coming":

Far have we come to cheer you,
In from the great outside,
Bringing our brightest greetings
For the Christmastide.

Waiting to hear the message,
Gaily the bells will ring,
Telling the dawn of Christmas,
With their ding-dong-ding.

Bells—(enter singing "Bells of Christmas," found in "Ye Merry Tunes"; 25 cents, and supplied by the publishers.)

First Sister—

Our decorations now complete,
We'll have to have Christmas-y things to eat.

Pudding—(comes in puffing.)

I've "raisin'" to think we'll be merry tonight;
I stole from the kitchen a minute,
To see if the fun had already begun,
And to tell a few things that are in it.
The turkey is crisp 'cause the cranberries "sauced",
There are jellies and fruits, nuts and candies;
The sickly pies "mince", like a princess or prince,
And think they're the tip-toppest dandies.
They all are as proud and dressed up as can be,
Their excellence really I question;
I'm sure we'll agree, if you entertain me,
And forget all about indigestion.

Angel—

Dear friends, the time has come I think,
To follow the Star to the missing link;
For it is the most important one—
Without it the Chain could never be done.
So follow, I pray; the way is bright
That leads you to happiness true tonight.

Star—

With loving guidance still I shine
As ever from above,
So do not grieve; this Christmas Eve,
I'll lead your hearts to love.

Second Sister—

We'll gladly go, but, let me see;
We've still to call the Christmas Tree,
And Santa Claus; they both belong
To Yuletide frolic, fun and song.

Angel—

You're right, the Christmas Spirit Chain
Is incomplete without them;
But never fear, we'll call them here,
So worry not about them;
But follow first the gleaming Star,
And hasten back; it is not far.

(Exit Star, followed by the Sisters. While they are gone the others form a semicircle, and fasten their lengths of chain together. They sing to the tune of "Solomon Levi.")

It isn't the shining Holly Wreath;
It isn't the Mistletoe;
It isn't the Yule Log's cheery warmth;
It isn't the glist'ning Snow;
It isn't the gleaming Christmas Star;
It isn't the Bells that ring;
Or even the Angel's message dear;
Or any one single thing.
But if you would be merry, loving, happy and gay,
Pray do not tarry—start on your journey today,
And follow the Christmas Spirit Chain;
'T will lead you all cares above,
And wrap you around, when at last you have found

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A LONELY SOMEONE TO LOVE.

(Enter Sisters, leading Someone. The Star follows and takes her place in the semicircle.)

First Sister—

We followed the Star, your prediction was true,
She led us to Love, as you said she would do.
At last we have found the last link to the Chain,

And I'm sure we shall never be lonesome again.
With Someone to love, and to cuddle and cheer,
I know we'll be happy the whole of the year.

Angel—

Ah, now you can see why your last Christmastide
Was lonely and sad tho' you many joys tried;
You had puddings, and holly; the Star shone above,
But you in your Selfishness sought none to love.
This child, tho' alone, had the true Christmas spirit;
Such food as she had, with the birdies did share it.
And, since you have chosen to give her this treat,
You've found the last link and your Chain is complete.

Someone—

A merry Christmas to you all;
I never was so jolly;
A greeting, Mr. Mistletoe;
To you, too, pretty Holly;
And, oh, you plummy pudding, dear,
And you, sweet Maid of Snow,
I love you all. Good cheer, gay Bells,
Dear Log, I love your glow.
A perfect Christmas this, indeed;
What fun there's going to be.

(Enter Santa Claus and Christmas Tree.)

Oh, lookee, look! Here's Santa Claus,
And such a lovely Tree.

Tree—

A happy greeting, little friends,
I've come to join the fun.
And brought a few toys for the girls and the boys,
I'm glad you have just begun.

Santa—

A merry Christmas, one and all,
Come, let's begin the party;
My reindeer won't wait, if I stay very late,
So, come, while we may, let's be hearty.

(The others now form in a complete circle about the two Sisters, and join all parts of the Chain so that the Sisters are surrounded with it.)

Second Sister—(lifting a loop of the Chain in her hand)

But one thing more, do tell me, pray,
Why is the Chain made just this way?

Angel—

The bands of red, for loving thoughts,
The green, fond wishes true;
Long may the Christmas Chain entwine
The heart of each of you.

Sisters—

Merry Christmas, indeed, with our friends all here,
(To audience)
We wish you the same—and a Happy New Year.

CURTAIN

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